

**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
FAST COMPUTATION OF ASSOCIATIVE OPERATIONS
OVER FIXED SIZE REGIONS OF A DIGITAL IMAGE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0076] This invention relates to a method and apparatus for fast computation of associative operations over fixed size regions of a digital image. More particularly, this invention relates to the application of associative operations -- such as MINIMUM, MAXIMUM, AND and OR -- to fixed size regions of a digital image such as hexagonal, octagonal and rectangular regions. This is accomplished by tiling the image and calculating two-dimensional running calculations of the operator for each possible corner overlap configuration of a window that is run over the tiles of the image and thus used to analyze the image. Combining the appropriate running calculations for a particular window position yields the final result for that position

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